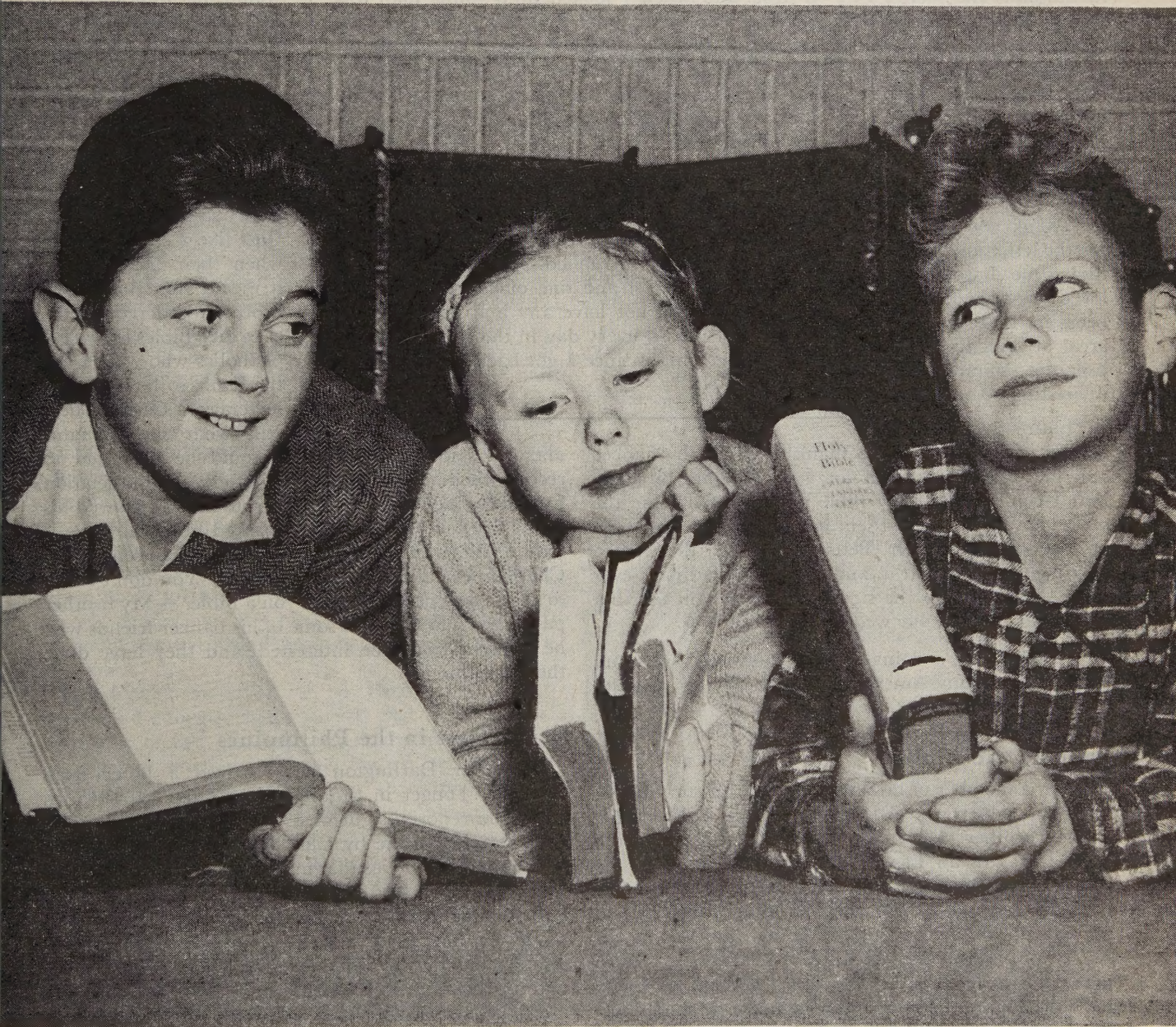


BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

VOL. 90

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No. 8



Every Child Should Have a Good Bible of His Own

Serving Men and Nations

Declined With Thanks

A soldier whose name (with home address) was included in the list of those who received the invitation to the Society's Annual Meeting last May responded in July, addressing President Burke from Kalikunda, India, where he was spending a much-needed furlough in the foothills of the Himalayas. He wrote:

"Thank you for sending the letter and remembering me. I would have loved to attend, had I been in the New York area at the time. The program sounded very interesting.

"Indirectly I have the American Bible Society to thank for a gift my fiancée sent me. I had asked her for a small white Bible, so that I could begin daily Bible readings, following the schedule your office had sent me earlier this year. One of your secretaries, Mr. Betts, put her on the way to locating one. She sent it, and I've been reading it ever since. As an end to the story: she and I will use that particular Bible at our wedding after the war. . . .

"Your Society is doing a grand job in this war, and I know that many American service men are grateful to you for it."

Bankers and Bibles

From a member of his family comes this story about a banker, which we relate with immense satisfaction:

"My brother Henry, who is president of one of the large banks in an Eastern city, has two boys in the services. The older boy, who volunteered for the Marine Officers Corps, has three children under seven. When his father protested against his going, and leaving his family responsibilities, he answered, 'Father, I have more to fight for than other people.' He told his father he had bought a new Bible, for he knew he should feel the need for it. He supposed the other men might laugh, but he was going to use it just the same. When he came to the training camp he found all the other

"Thank You for It, Sir"

SECRETARY DARBY of the National Capital District office relates this significant experience:

"On July 20th I heard someone walk by our office, then turn and come back. The door was open a little, and when I looked up a young man was reading our sign: American Bible Society. He stepped inside and I greeted him, a lad of twenty-five or so. At once he asked: 'Is this the Society which has been distributing Testaments to the military personnel for some time?' I answered in the affirmative.

"Then I want to thank you for one I received," he responded. "It is the first chance I have had to do that."—"Where did you get one?" I asked.—"While I was spending two years in a German concentration camp," he replied. "One day I received a Red Cross parcel and one of your Testaments was in it. I did not have any and it surely was welcome. I read it every day in the camp and still read it every night since I got back home. Thank you for it, sir."

men that came when he did had brought theirs and were using them.

"This gave my brother an idea. If Henry wanted a Bible, perhaps the other men who left his office would like Bibles too. So he sent twenty Bibles to the men who had gone from the bank, and he received many letters of keen appreciation. You can imagine why. If a maiden aunt like myself had sent one, they would have smiled and said, 'Just like a spinster'; but when their boss sent it, it meant something. My brother wondered whether to give Bibles to several Catholics who went from the bank, so he asked his secretary, a Catholic herself, what she thought,

and she said she knew they would be delighted to receive them. My brother got letters of appreciation from these men too. One man wrote that he showed his to his Catholic Chaplain, who asked him who gave it to him. When the man told him his boss had sent it, the Chaplain exclaimed in astonishment, 'You don't mean to say a bank president gave you a Bible?'—My brother passed the scheme on to some of his banker friends who he thought would be interested, and they have done the same thing."

Better Days in the Philippines

Treasurer Darlington has received a letter from Secretary Fonger in Manila, dated June 19, 1945, in which he reports a gift of \$501. "This gift," he says, "was handed to me by Chaplain W. H. Andrew. All that was reported was that in services on Leyte offerings had been made by the service men . . . and that this amount was to come to the Bible Society. These boys are giving liberally to the work out here and it is most appreciated by the Filipino church folk. One church here in the city received almost \$1,200 last Sunday in offerings at two services. Churches are crowded at every service and some churches are now planning for extra worship periods on Sundays to give a chance to all who wish to attend."

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Mother Wisdom

By Francis C. Stifler

"THERE is one thing I can do and I am going to do it. I am going to see that my child knows and loves the Bible."—Betty, who said this, is a war wife now. I had baptized her when she was a little girl. Like thousands of young American mothers in recent years, her homemaking had from the start faced many handicaps. Not only was her husband away most of the time; she had no home of her own. Her mother and father still sheltered her. Her income, though steady and assured, was meagre. The problems of food and fresh air, of clothing and travel, of saving for the rainy day, were all heightened for her. And back of it all, like a rumbling storm-cloud, hung the awful uncertainty of the future (now, happily brightened by the cessation of hostilities). Within the boundaries set by these abnormal circumstances, there were many things Betty longed to do for her child that were sternly and consistently denied her. But one thing was still in reach. She could see that little Nancy came to know and love her Bible.

That is why she called me up. How should she do it? A noted educator has observed that the two basic professions of life, farming and motherhood, are the very two in which there is the highest percentage of untrained people. Betty was one of those mothers who knew what was needed, but knew little about how to supply the need. Her wisdom lay first in her recognition of the need. Would that every American mother had that wisdom! Betty's further wisdom lay in the consciousness of an ignorance that drove her to the phone to call for help.

We shall not here deal with that problem of almost cosmic dimensions—how to make mothers aware of their religious responsibilities toward their children. But when they are aware and ask for guidance in the discharge of their responsibility, what shall we say to them?

First, let the child emerge from earliest babyhood into an awareness that the Bible is one of the beautiful things of life. I like the custom followed in some

churches of giving a beautifully bound Bible to children when they join the cradle roll—for a while to be nothing more than a bright object to handle and for mother to talk about; an anchoring in the little mind of the idea that here is a Book that is unlike and above and more wonderful than any other book. For children today are born into a world of many books.

Second, let the mother train herself to use this Book for her child. If she feels that she needs help in this, let her consult her pastor. If this proves unprofitable, let her write to the Sunday-school department of her denomination. If she has access to a good library, let her browse among the Bible-books for children. Let her single aim, however, from all this study be to train herself to make the Bible fascinating to her child. Let her avoid what often tempts a mother from the path to true success—the reading to her child from books about the Bible or books based on the Bible rather than from the Bible itself. It is the Bible itself that should be in her hands as she reads. Yes, there are Bibles with pictures and big type and other devices to interest children. But a mother's preparation should be to train herself to be the interpreter for her child as she reads from the sacred text itself.

Third, at an early age let the child be presented with a good, readable Bible of his own, if possible with a leather binding bearing his name in gold letters. The best book in a child's life should be the best-looking book he owns. Let mother's reading be done from this particular Bible in the days before the child becomes a facile reader for himself.

Fourth, let the mother realize that to be sure of success, her work must be largely done in the pre-school years. It is during those precious sixty months when she has the child to herself that the emphasis can be given. Much help, of course, will come from the beginners' and the primary departments of the Sunday school, but it is only in rare cases that a "set" for life has been achieved there without valiant support at home.

Fifth, and above all else, let the parents (the mother may, if need be, do the other things alone) live the Bible before their child. He is reading *them* with more interest than he does any book. It is through his love for them that love for the Book is added to knowledge of its contents. And it is love for, and not simply knowledge of, the Bible that will keep it in his life. It is love for the Bible that he will gain through his natural love for his parents. Let mother and father be found reading and talking about the Book; yes, and attending the church and the Sunday school that

gather around the Book; yes, all this, but something more. Let the parents live blamelessly together, being "kindly affectioned" toward each other; "in honor preferring" each other; creating by their reverence, their restraint, their evident daily comradeship with Christ, that atmosphere which makes home into heaven.

All this costs but little money; but it costs much prayer, much study, much persistence and much patience. Its reward is priceless—a man after God's own heart.

Report from Chungking

NINETEEN FORTY-FOUR was the lowest of many discouraging years in the Society's work in China. But a better day is dawning. We present here excerpts from the Annual Report of the China Bible House. The first paragraph is from Secretary J. C. F. Robertson, covering the general situation. The remainder is from the pen of Mr. T. H. Lin, devoted Secretary of the work in the capital city of China. There is, of course, no report from the occupied areas.

The war in China, which has been more or less quiescent for the last two years, suddenly flared up with considerable intensity as the Japanese tried to emulate in China the example of the United Nations in pushing the Balkans out of the war. The area we are able to serve has shrunk; Honan has gone; much of the Southwest has gone; the small remaining portion of Central China we formerly served has also gone. Some of our number have been in great danger. Some of the Colporteurs have suffered severely. We mourn the death of the first Chinese General Secretary, Bishop E. S. Yü, who died in Shanghai; we mourn the death of several Colporteurs who, cut off from communications and supplies have died, we fear, in want. Deep sorrow has entered into the home of at least one member of the staff, Mr. C. A. Rao, who mourns the loss of a son who died leading his men in the battle of the Salween river. All members of the staff have borne grievous losses. All have experienced anew the uncertainty of long hours spent in dugouts and air-raided caves. It is significant that, after seven years of war, only this year has the pressure been so great as to necessitate the cutting of a Bible Society air-raided shelter in the living rock of Chungking. Despite all this we have much cause for thanksgiving.

One day an officer came to the Bible House in Chungking and bought ten copies of the New Testament. When I asked him how he was going to use them, he answered that there were eight Christians in his corps and they had been hurriedly ordered to the front. Again, I received a letter from a soldier in the Youth Corps. It said that the discipline in their group

was very strict, and some of the Christians in the corps would like to organize a Christian fellowship so that they could advise and help one another. He also asked me for some copies of the Bible and hymn books.

People urgently need God's Word, especially the young men's circles and students in the mission and government schools. Thus it appears that, despite fighting with the enemy and living in such an unstable environment, they still come from distant places to get Scriptures for use in coming to our Lord and in order to receive His message.

Many Difficulties to Overcome

Our circulation is much less than before the war, yet these people who buy the Scriptures are thirsting for righteousness. Thanks be to God, who blessed me and my family during the last year, so that I was strong enough to carry on my work without interruption! Our work presents the following aspects:

Handicaps Due to Mail Services: Unfortunately, mail routes have been interrupted to such proportions as people would scarcely believe, and the postage is so high; sometimes mail cannot be delivered and sometimes the post office will not accept it at all.

Shortage of Scriptures in Foreign Languages: Chinese Scriptures printed in West China are still abundant, but the shortage of Bibles in foreign languages is very serious. If we had had ten thousand English Bibles in 1944, I think it would have been very easy to have sold them all during the year. I hope that several thousand English Bibles can be shipped in from India; only then will we be able to meet the need.

There was a Bible exhibition last spring sponsored by the Christian fellowship in the government university. Some prominent persons were invited to give speeches during the exhibition. More than three hundred New Testaments were sold to the visitors.

A pastor is going to lead a Bible class in a certain National Middle School which is near his church. More than a hundred young students have applied to join the class. One hundred copies of the bilingual

Portions (in Chinese and English) and many copies of the New Testament, costing about nine thousand dollars, have been ordered for their use. In Chungking people seem fond of joining English Bible classes.

Prison Work: The mission of our Lord in coming down to earth was to save sinners. So our Society emphasizes also the work among prisoners. Since their bodies are not free, they need mental comfort urgently.

In Kweiyang, Mr. Wan Fu-lin, a pastor of the Church of Christ in China, last year began working in prisons. The Society donated fifty New Testaments to them. I quote a part of Pastor Wan's report:

"There is an army prison here in the vicinity of the city. The equipment is very modern. About sixty percent of the prisoners are intellectuals, including magistrates, secretaries, generals and privates. Some of them are college graduates and some of them are high-school graduates.

"Permitted by the jail master, we preach in the prison every Thursday. The prisoners are divided into three groups according to their grades. Most of them seem quite satisfied after the sermon has been given, and sometimes many questions are asked. But it is regretful that we are not allowed to talk individually. Fortunately, fifty New Testaments were contributed by the Bible Societies to us. Now they have been sent to the jail master. He showed me that in each room a copy of the New Testament is available to every

prisoner: Since the Bible is full of the grace of God, I think every prisoner must get a lot of comfort and must give thanks to God. I appreciate the help of the Bible Societies very much."

The Salvation Army Helps

The Salvation Army engages in prison work. Captain Liu of the Army does his routine work in the prison. Mr. Li Jui contributed money to buy six hundred New Testaments and four thousand Gospel portions for the prisoners. A great many sinners confessed their crimes and decided to become Christians. Lieut. Col. William Darby writes: "We have been going to prisons, two in the city and two in the suburbs of Chungking, this year. Three thousand, five hundred Gospel portions were distributed. Prisoners are easily moved and show their appreciation of the Gospel. Many were converted. Often, at the end of the service, some showed their willingness to be witnesses of the Lord, learning to pray and learning to sing hymns. Some have come to our church after release. Some even take part in our mission. Still others are willing to work for the Lord and become zealous followers. We have also visited three army hospitals. Close contact has been made with the soldiers. Two thousand, four hundred Gospel portions were presented to them. There are four groups of workers organized for this service. The head is stationed at the hospital."

Intellectuals-Join-the-Army-Movement: When the Intellectuals-Join-the-Army movement was in full swing, many of the men bought Bibles of their own free will and some were presented by us. Most students in the Interpreters' Training School under the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the National Military Council embraced Christianity in their college days. Before they joined the army we provided them with pocket Testaments. Many officers in the military hospitals were also presented with Testaments by us.

The Work of the Colporteur: Due to wartime conditions we have only two Colporteurs, one in Chungking and one in Hochuan. They are busily engaged in preaching and selling Scriptures the year round. Pastor Lu of the Methodist Church at Hochuan wrote that Colporteur Li exerted his utmost to carry on his work even in the country. He led men and women to the church. He sold about forty New Testaments at the neighboring school on one occasion and also persuaded ten to twenty students to join the English Bible class. Mr. Li won success in colportage work on market days at various places near the church, while another Colporteur, Mr. Tuan in Chungking, went out for the same purpose every day, also prayed for many persons and preached at the refugee shelters.

Having worked in Chungking for seven years, ever since the war broke out, I have made a desperate effort to overcome the handicaps due to wartime difficulties. I hope to cooperate with the Lord's servants in every church to promote the Bible Society's work. In addition to the present work I also make every effort to plan in advance our future work.



Dedicated March 1, 1939

The Chungking Bible House, though severely damaged by bombing, has been repaired and is in use

Haiti Moves into the Light

• *Literacy and the Gospel come to bless our Neighbor Island Republic*

By James Innes

HAITI, "terre de montagnes et de café" ("land of mountains and coffee"), as the Haitians picturesquely refer to their beautiful country, is divided by wild mountain ranges and deep ravines.

The Republic of Haiti occupies part of an island in the Caribbean Sea, of which the other part is the Dominican Republic. It is something over 10,000 square miles in size and has a population estimated at over 3,000,000. The country was first colonized by the French, who brought African slave labor to work on the plantations. The population of modern Haiti is overwhelmingly Negro, and unfortunately is largely illiterate.

The development of a new country depends to a great extent upon its topography; and since Haiti is a land of high, rugged mountain ranges the country has been slow in opening up. There are very few good roads and only one short railway. The people in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and in several of the other larger cities enjoy the comforts of modern civilization in some degree, but in the interior the people live under very primitive conditions and, according to American standards, much below a subsistence level. They are meagerly clothed, poorly fed and their housing conditions are quite unknown in the United States.

The official language of the country is French. Actually, however, apart from the educated few and government officials, most of the people speak a "patois" called Creole. Until recently, however, all of the reading material published in the country or coming from abroad was in French, with the result that, since the ordinary people spoke only Creole, there was very little incentive for them to learn to read.

Some years ago the Rev. H. Ormonde McConnell, a Methodist minister in Port-au-Prince, came to the conclusion that the Creole ought to be reduced to writing. He set about the task, achieving considerable success. After some experience in this field he had the Creole reduced to writing in accordance with the rules and practices of international phonetics. In order to encourage those who could already read French or who were beginning to learn to read Creole, he published a little news sheet in Creole giving items of topical interest and always including a brief story with a moral precept. This went on for several years. Meanwhile Mr. McConnell had begun to develop a method of teaching

the people to read their own language, which they could of course speak to one another but not as yet read. His method of instruction he later found to be not unlike that used by Dr. Frank C. Laubach, the eminent missionary educator in the field

of illiteracy. Accordingly Dr. Laubach was invited by the Haitian Government to visit the country and to initiate and seek to popularize a campaign for teaching the masses of the people to learn to read their mother tongue.

By this time Mr. McConnell was hard at work with several collaborators on the translation of the Gospel of St. Luke into Creole. This was done in close association with the Bible Society, and



Country People in Haiti Going to Church

after going through the various stages of cross-checking, proofreading, etc., the Gospel was published by the Society last year. Since this will be for most of the Haitians the first reading material which they have had (and due, too, to the very poor lighting conditions in their homes) the Gospel is printed in large, bold type and therefore is a much larger book than the usual Gospel portion.

An interesting event in this connection was the presentation of a specially bound copy to His Excellency, President Elie Lescot of Haiti. Mr. McConnell made the presentation on behalf of the American Bible Society to His Excellency in the palace at the capital. In his reply the President graciously expressed his appreciation and, among other things, pointed out that inasmuch as the Gospel message is presented in concrete form (parables, etc.), it readily lends itself to translation into Creole, which is a language of concrete, simple, direct speech.

The first edition of 30,000 copies of the Gospel of St. Luke in Creole have already been distributed in Haiti and a further edition of 70,000 copies will shortly be published by the Society. Needless to say, with the publication of this Gospel in Creole the work is not finished; it is just begun. Already the translation of the Gospel of St. John is well advanced, work having been begun also on the Acts of the Apostles.

The picture would not be complete were we to omit what is perhaps the most important part of the story. One can well imagine the joy with which these Gospels would be received by the simple Christian people in Haiti. For the first time they are able to take in their hands, read, meditate upon and keep as their own, the

story of the Saviour whom they have long loved, but only now are able to read about in their mother tongue. He has now become their own in a deeper sense.

Let historians take note. In this simple achieve-

ment, unheralded in the world's headlines, begins the new era of hope, health, happiness and progress for yet another people long locked out in the darkness of illiteracy, with all its accompanying evils.

A Family Record

By Henry H. Ragatz

THIS is the story of an unusual "Family Record" kept by a United States Army Chaplain while a war prisoner of the Japanese—a record now safely preserved in the official archives at Washington.

The story started with the fall of Corregidor. Our forces were given little opportunity to provide for the hardships in store for them at Bilibid, the Japanese prison where those who survived were to spend terrible days and nights, stretching into endless months—and for some, several years—of deadening inactivity and suffering.

Chaplain Perry O. Wilcox, a Colonel in the United States Army, was one of three Chaplains who had been captured. He had a small pocket notebook which he had been able to take with him, and in it he carefully kept a record of the many deaths. It was something of a hopeless task; there was little to indicate that it would ever reach home with its tragic contents.

Life gradually fell into a pattern. There was much to be done for the men and little with which to do it. Finally the Japanese agreed that one Chaplain could make a trip to Manila each week and bring back whatever he was able to carry, subject, of course, to examination and censorship. The youngest Chaplain, a Catholic, was selected to make the trip.

The American Bible Society's office in Manila was still functioning, and for over a year the camp emissary was able to bring back a small weekly supply of Scriptures. These were usually small packages containing about two dozen Service New Testaments. The censor would examine the box and its contents, place the official Japanese stamp on a slip of paper and insert this in the package.

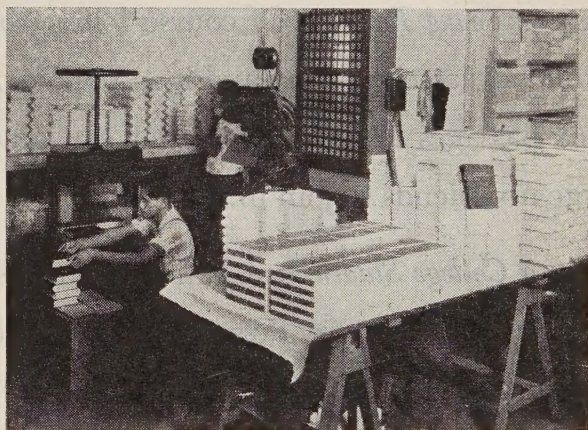
Bible classes were started and the limited number of Testaments were put to good use. After the first year the weekly trips were ordered stopped, but the Japanese army agreed that they would bring in from Manila any supplies the prisoners requested—and were able to pay for. It was with some degree of question that a request for New Testaments was sent to the camp authorities, but in due time a Japanese soldier appeared at the Manila Bible House, where the order was filled from dwindling supplies.

For two and a half years the Japanese authorities boasted that they were meeting every need and request of the prisoners, even to supplying Bibles.

Toward the last the books were obviously used copies, having been gathered from all possible sources to re-

place the exhausted stock. But they were Scripture, and it is impossible to know how much individual copies may have meant to the prisoners.

A few months before the end of the war, word came that Chaplain Wilcox was to be exchanged; he was going home. By now his notebook was almost filled. In



The orderliness of peace in the Manila Bindery, 1940

it he had recorded each death with name, rank, date, cause of death, together with any last messages or other information which might be of comfort to loved ones at home. The question was: how to get the book through the Japanese censors?

Shortly before he was to leave, another package of Bibles was received. Among them was one which bore on its flyleaf the inscription, "To Burton Fonger, from his father." (Secretary and Mrs. Fonger lost their only child, Burton, who died from malaria during the family's internment in a camp near Manila.) Another item in this package was the slip of paper bearing the Japanese censor's stamp. Chaplain Wilcox surreptitiously took his notebook apart, inserted this piece of paper in the front, trimmed it to the same size as the original pages and rebound the book. It therefore carried on its front page the official mark of having been already censored, and at each examination it was passed without question.

Upon his arrival in San Francisco last May one of Chaplain Wilcox's first acts was to send the notebook to Washington, where it became an official casualty list.

The entrance of His Word brought sustenance to the living, hope to the dying and comfort to the surviving.

I am a Father. I can find the time to read these passages with my family or on my way to work. I can also think about them, as they have bearing upon my responsibilities as a father.

I am a Mother. Even if I must leave my home to go to work each morning, I can contrive to have every member of my household read or hear the daily passages.

I am a Young Person. Of course I love to read thrillers. If the Bible has lasted so long and is so popular, these thrilling thirty-four passages are just for me. I can read them faithfully and urge my friends to join in.

I am a College Student. I can popularize this program among my classmates, in my dormitory, my fraternity or sorority, and on the campus generally.

I am a Pastor. What an opportunity!—I can sow my parish down with these bookmarks. I can preach on the subject of Bible reading. I can choose texts from these chapters. I can urge both newspaper and radio station to give this movement wide publicity.

I am a School Teacher. I can read from these passages daily to my pupils if the law does not forbid. I can distribute the bookmarks and ask the boys and girls to encourage the Reading at home.

I am a Merchant. I can make a window display around this idea. I can have the bookmarks on my counters. I can enclose them with my bills and statements, November 1 and December 1.

I am a Farmer. I can sow the seed of this worthy enterprise when I go to market or at the meetings of the Grange, and can hand a bookmark to everyone with whom I work or

Who

*That I should
help in the
to Christmas*

m I?



iving

Reading?

deal through the five weeks and before.

I am an Industrialist. I can put the bookmarks in my pay envelopes. I can even add a slip encouraging our men and women

to enlist their families and friends in the program.

I am a Librarian. I can feature a display of Bibles and books about the Bible for the period, prominently offering the bookmarks for distribution.

I am a Labor Union Officer. I can distribute the bookmarks at the Union meetings.

I am a Red Cross Worker. I can enclose a bookmark, if not one of the American Bible Society's special Service Testaments, in the kits I help prepare for the men.

I am Anybody who Deals with the Public. As a ticket agent, water department clerk, electric or gas company employee, laundryman, milk or bakery salesman, I can say, "Have you seen this?"—and offer one of the bookmarks.

I am a Homebody. I can send a V-Mail letter with the list printed on it, furnished by the American Bible Society, to every young man and woman I know in the Services. I can distribute these forms in my church and my neighborhood.

I am a Christian. I can pray daily that this enterprise may reach to the farthest corners of the earth to bless countless souls; that it shall release the power of God to turn men's minds toward the achievement of peace and the effective employment of atomic and all other forms of energy for the purposes of the Kingdom of Christ.

The Bible in Braille

For the Blind Student and the Blind Serviceman

By S. Ruth Barrett

OFTEN, in learning to read, the Bible is the first textbook of the blind child. It is now likewise among the first books which the blind war veteran learns to read.

The sightless student is proving a great help to the sightless war veteran, whose outlook on life is so suddenly changed. To hold in his hand for the first time a bulky, embossed volume which he must learn to read with his fingertips, is startling. But when he learns with what great facility the blind student runs over the embossed page, he is encouraged to try. The important thing is to get him started. He spends two weeks in training at a school for the Blind. It is slow plodding at first, but as his fingers become more nimble and he becomes more familiar with the raised dots of the Braille, it is like a game and he is eager to learn more. From then on, his interest is aroused and progress is swift. He receives his first Braille volume of the Bible and, pressing his fingers over the embossed page, he gains renewed confidence, increased courage and peace to his troubled soul. Day by day he grows stronger and happier, and gradually he becomes a changed person; he discovers that he has found something which before his blindness he never realized existed. He begins to make plans for a future of service. He desires to help other servicemen—and he does!

Each year the Society sends a number of Scripture volumes to blind students and to the libraries of schools for the Blind. Some New Testaments were sent to students at the Oklahoma State Institution for the Deaf and Blind. A supervisor nurse wrote: "The State provides all the necessary things, but had never seemed to



Bill Hennman, Blind Marine, discusses future plans with sightless Hazel Hurst of the Hazel Hurst Foundation for the Blind. (The Braille Bible in 20 large volumes furnished by the Society is seen behind them within easy reach)

realize that a Braille Bible is a necessity. Therefore the joy of possessing a whole Bible and some New Testaments made it a day of real celebration and Thanksgiving. Heaven alone will reveal the untold value of such a possession. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry to the Blind!"

From the wife of a blind war veteran still in the hospital comes this note of appreciation: "I can't say 'thank you' in enough words for the kind gift to my husband. He is so delighted with the Scriptures and I know they will be a great comfort to him. Both of us were quite shocked by this illness on top of his blindness and your thoughtful deed has helped my own faith in the goodness of life."

A unique appeal from far-off China came through Pfc. Clyde Harmon, Chaplain's Assistant, for Bible volumes in English Braille to be used by little Chinese students in the Yunnan Blind and Deaf School at Kunming. Last spring Pfc. Harmon, stationed in China, wrote: "There is a blind-and-deaf school near this city which needs school supplies. I wonder if you could send me some New Testaments or Gospels in Braille. Mr. Loh Shu-i, the principal, is teaching the Blind to read Braille in English. The school is operating under a Christian influence even though they do not have any direct support from a Christian organization. The school is working under a severe handicap. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated."

Under the restrictions of war the Society could not send the complete Braille Bible in twenty bulky volumes at one time, but two volumes containing the four Gos-



Reading the Braille Bible out in the sunshine

pels were sent immediately; then three copies of the Society's popular small "Volume of Scripture Passages"; and then followed each month a single volume of the New Testament. Pfc. Harmon visited the school recently and reported that both the Chinese teacher and the young students were reading the English Braille Scripture volumes remarkably well in spite of their limited vocabulary, and are indeed a thankful group. What a need is here revealed for the Book of Books!

Chaplain E. L. Wade of the Hospital Ship *U.S.S. Consolation* appealed for Bible volumes and Talking Book Records for the library of his ship for the use of blinded navy men. The request was gladly filled. The *Consolation* is equipped to take care of 800 patients at one time.

A Braille Bible costs \$47. May gifts to the Blind Fund continue to help the Society provide the Bible in larger numbers, so that all these sightless ones may be inspired, comforted and encouraged to carry on happily, rising above their tremendous handicaps!



Chinese students learning to read at the Yunnan Blind, Deaf and Dumb School, Kunming, China

"Our own tongue, wherein we were born"

A revealing incident from the experience of one of the translators of the Gospel of John into Quiché, spoken by a half million Indians in Southern Guatemala

By Paul Burgess

WE had made a miscalculation. We thought we could get up that hill without putting on our chains. But no—just as we were coming out on top, the wheels began to spin, the car began to skid and into the ditch we went. And there we sat blocking the road.

This happened about 200 yards from the home of a German coffee planter. When he heard the motor suddenly stop he came running out with one of his sons, and they began to talk in their best Continental English, offering their services. An Englishman drove up from another plantation and, finding the road blocked, got out to help. Indian *mozos* passing by put down their loads to lend a hand, addressing us respectfully in Spanish; and a local military commander mounted on a white mare very grandly offered his advice.

So far, so good. But when all got busy on the job, our respect for each other's languages was thrown to the winds. The German shouted excitedly to his son, "Der Knabe reicht nicht aus"; the Englishman observed calmly, "We must get her into the center, sir"; the Indians sang out "Rugk chuk'ak alabom"; and the military man scolded: "Enderece las ruedas de adelante, hombre!"

We got out, all right, after a half hour of jabbering in four languages, and went on our way reflecting that even in the mild excitement of getting a car out of the mud under a sense of strain, every man reverted to the language in which he was born.

We had often noticed in our church sessions, which ecclesiastical law requires be held and written down in Spanish, that, when the issues are keen and the debate

intense, the language is suddenly changed and the stilted Spanish gives way to a flood of Quiché, which no presiding officer, law or no law, can hold back.

We remembered a session where a polished Mexican gentleman was declaring that dialect work had no place in a Christian program; that the churches should cooperate with the government in making Spanish the official language and in stamping out the aboriginal dialects, since anything that encouraged them tended to prevent the absorption of the Indian into the national life. There was an old Scot present who raised his voice to say: "I have been listening to the Gospel in English and in Spanish for fifty years, but the Word of God never speaks to me with the authority in these languages that it does when I hear it in Scotch." The Mexican, with half a sneer and thinking himself very clever, retorted: "So it would seem that the Scotch are the Indians of the British Isles."—"Just so", answered the Scot, "and proud of it."

And so we drew the conclusion that the Holy Spirit made no mistake on that great day of Pentecost when the Christian Church was launched on its career and He brought it about that every man should hear the Gospel in the language in which he was born. If our faith is to see us through the very worst of our tensions, through the most profound of our spiritual crises, it will have to speak to us not in the polished veneer of a tongue we have acquired in maturity, but in the staunch cadences of the language in which we were born and which represents the realities of our life. Here, then, is our commission for a Christian testimony in the Indian dialects.

PROGRESS REPORTS

BIBLES NOT BOMBS

We Believe So, Too (Editors)

THE Elyria Men's Bible Class is an independent inter-denominational Bible Class which meets (October-June) at the YMCA. The class enrollment is twenty-five. No wealthy men attend. Several are men of very limited means.

The class accepted the challenge of the American Bible Society's War Emergency and Postwar Rehabilitation Fund for Elyria and Lorain County, Ohio, as presented by the teacher—and set as its goal one thousand dollars. It was further decided that the class give a hundred dollars to launch the campaign and pay all campaign expenses. The class actually gave \$130 to the fund and paid expenses of \$125, the gifts averaging over \$10 per man. The largest single gift was \$25. This is how it was done: A list of names of individuals, clubs and firms was gathered. A number of letters was sent, approximately 1,275. They were mailed under first-class postage and a stamped envelope (3 cents postage) addressed to the treasurer for return was enclosed. No personal solicitation was made. A prominent and popular banker, not a member of the class, was chosen as treasurer.

The undertaking was presented to the Ministerial Association as a matter of courtesy, but no special cooperation was asked.

Mr. L. B. Hindman, the teacher of the class, writes: "We believe any live Men's Bible Class in the country could duplicate our success."

\$2,932,600

2,800,000

2,700,000

2,600,000

2,500,000

2,400,000

2,300,000

2,200,000

2,100,000

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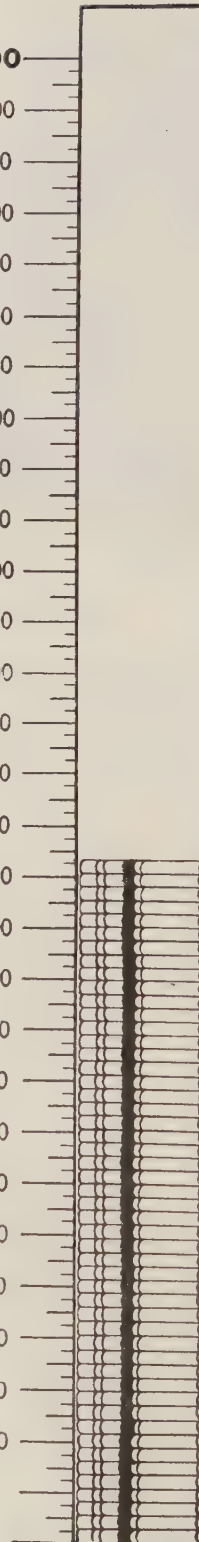
600,000

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300,000

200,000



FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

How the
\$2,932,600
fund grows.

Have you helped
with your own gift;
by urging
others to give?

*\$1,358,749 as of August 31, 1945.

OCTOBER, 1945

Romance of a Lost Book

The files of the Bible Society Record through its ninety years tell this same story in a new setting at not infrequent intervals. Unaided, there is power in the Word for him who reads it earnestly.

By Merny B. Saveker, Chichimula, Guatemala

SEVERAL years ago I was riding horseback over a pretty rough trail and somewhere along the way I lost my Bible out of my saddlebag.

It was several months before I happened to go over that trail again. My trip this time was not so hurried, and I made inquiries along the way at each village as to whether my book had been found.

Finally, at one of the smallest and poorest villages, Sabana Grande, I got my answer. The book had been picked up along the wayside by an illiterate Indian farmer. He had brought it back to the village, where there was only one man who could read. Out of curiosity he took the book to this man. Quite a few of the villagers gathered around as the man began to read from it. They enjoyed the reading, and ever since that time they had gathered each evening to listen to further readings.

Now, they said, they were ready to organize themselves into a church. I helped them do it, and a year later they built a small chapel. Two youths from the village, an Indian boy and an Indian girl, later came to Chichimula for a two-year course in the mission school, on finishing which they will become missionaries to their people.

All this was the result of a lost Bible!

With the permission of the New York Sun we reprint the following from a columnist known for his interest in practical religion

Dave Boone Says:

I guess it's a question whether the Japs were as flattened by the atomic as by the Joe Stalinic bomb. Japan couldn't be saved now even if its Emperor was Houdini.

It looks as if man had better start harnessing the forces of the Spirit, the powers of Holy Writ and the electrons of the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments. The only "atomic bombs" that will save mankind from now on are to be found there.

A little "splitting" of the rays of religion and a little "releasing of the energy" of the Bible seems in order. If we would only spend sums like \$2,000,000,000 to harness the forces of God's teachings what a break it would be for the human race!

No uranium is needed as a medium for that. Just the medium of vital, crusading churches with the ablest, most forceful, most intelligent men in our citizenship, aglow and aflame with the spirit of the prophets.

New District Secretary



Mr. West

THE American Bible Society is happy to present to readers of the RECORD the Rev. Richard Estes West, who assumed his duties on September 1 as Secretary of the Rocky Mountain District, with headquarters at Denver. Mr. West is a Methodist minister. He was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Kansas State College,

where he was active in athletics, music and campus Christian work. Shortly after his graduation from college he heard the call to full-time Christian service, entered the Iliff School of Theology in Denver and was graduated in 1937 with a Master of Theology degree. He has completed all his residence work for his Th.D. at Iliff. Mr. West comes to his new work from a notably successful seven-year pastorate in the Wheat Ridge Community Methodist Church, located in a suburb of Denver. For the past six years he was Chaplain of the Colorado State House of Representatives, and for the past three years was Director of Youth work for the Methodist Church in Colorado and chairman of the committee on the Church's Spanish work in the State. Mr. West is married and has two daughters, aged nine and three.

In his new position Mr. West succeeds the Rev. Henry H. Ragatz, who has been brought to the Bible House in New York to direct the Society's rapidly expanding Department of Visual Education.

Grateful Prisoners of War

From Asheville, N. C., T/S Sid S. Brittain wrote in September:

May I give a testimony of your work and how many other soldiers and myself benefited from it?

For about six months I was a prisoner of war in Germany. Shortly after arrival at our stalag the acting Chaplain, an enlisted man by the name of Dick Grey of California, inquired among the new arrivals as to who wanted Bibles and Testaments. Almost to a man they requested one or the other. Since the supply was limited we were asked to double up with our buddy. I was very much surprised and delighted to see that the Bibles and Testaments were from the American Bible Society. After contributing in a small way to your work I finally was on the receiving end. I had a real thrill knowing that a part of my contributions were going into a phase of your work where it was so much appreciated.

May our Loving God continue to bless your work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Editorial Comment



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis Carr
Stifler, Secretary,
Bible House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York 22



Vol. 90 OCTOBER 1945 No. 8

Bible Reading Program

OCTOBER

Date	Book	Chapter	Date	Book	Chapter
1	Hebrews...	1:1-2:10	17	I Thess...	2:13-3:13
2	Hebrews...	2:11-3:19	18	I Thess...	4
3	Hebrews...	4:1-5:14	19	I Thess...	5
4	Hebrews...	6	20	II Thess...	1:1-2:12
5	Hebrews...	7	21	II Thess...	2:13-3:18
6	Hebrews...	8:1-9:10	22	I Timothy...	1
7	Hebrews...	9:11-10:10	23	I Timothy...	2:1-3:13
8	Hebrews...	10:11-39	24	I Timothy...	3:14-4:16
9	Hebrews...	11:1-31	25	I Timothy...	5
10	Hebrews...	12:12-17	26	I Timothy...	6
11	Hebrews...	12:18-13:25	27	II Timothy...	1:1-2:13
12	Colossians...	1	28	II Timothy...	
13	Colossians...	2			2:14-3:17
14	Colossians...	3	29	II Timothy...	4
15	Colossians...	4	30	Titus...	1:1-2:14
16	I Thess...	1:1-2:12	31	Titus...	2:15-3:15

✱ ✱

New Literature Available

Twelve Worship Services, centered on the Bible. Even the prayers are from the Scripture text. Each service takes about ten minutes. Among the themes are: God in Nature, Christian Service, The Christian in Action, The Love of Jesus, Personal Dedication to God. The services are designed not only for church and Sunday-school use but for the opening of club meetings and school exercises or wherever a short devotional service is desired.

Sample sets of the twelve different services may be ordered for 5 cents to

cover postage. Ordered in quantities, the price is 15 cents per 100 sheets, whether the order is for one hundred copies of one service or smaller quantities of several services. Address your inquiries and orders to the Youth Division.

✱ ✱

Mr. Roosevelt and the Bible. An inexpensive reprint of the excerpts from the recent Conference on International Organization while in session at San Francisco, April-June, 1945. A single copy will be sent free to those requesting it. In quantities, the pamphlet will be distributed at 12 copies for 50 cents and 25 copies for \$1, to cover costs of printing and mailing. Address requests to Publicity Department.

✱ ✱

The American Bible Society reports with regret the death of Mr. E. C. Wheatley, who has for a number of years served as the Subagent of the Bible Society in St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands.

✱ ✱

The Bible Society Record is happy each year to announce Bible Mastery Month, promoted now for 17 years by the Presbytery of Seattle, Washington. The book for 1945 is the Book of Acts. Those signing the committal card this year are pledged to read at least four chapters each day during October and, optionally, to read the whole book at one sitting during the month. Seventeen denominations were represented in the reading last year, the readers responding from 36 states of the Union and five foreign countries. Further information may be had by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Rev. C. J. Boppell, 2666 37th Avenue, S.W., Seattle 6, Washington.

✱ ✱

August Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers was held on Thursday, August 2, 1945, at 3:30 P.M., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. John J. Leu.

The official address of the Bible House was changed to 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

A detailed report on the War Emergency Fund campaign was presented

and its continuance for a period beginning September 1st authorized.

Sample copies of new editions of the Scriptures in French, Serbian, Lettish, Ancient Greek, Ilocano, Cebuano, Tagalog, Panayan and German were presented.

A sketch of the facade of the new Bible House in Rio de Janeiro, which had just arrived from Brazil, was presented.

✱ ✱

September Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers was held on Thursday, September 6, 1945, at 3:30 p.m., Mr. Harry Hodges in the Chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. James P. Gillespie.

Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Secretary of the Caribbean Agency, was present and spoke on the work in his Agency.

A gift of \$343.93 from German prisoners of war was reported.

Two copies of the John Eliot Indian Bible, having been acquired for the Library, were presented.

A revised schedule of the War Emergency Campaign was approved.

Two articles appearing on earlier pages of this issue of the Bible Society Record come from the pens of two members of the Bible House family of whom special mention is in order.

Rev. Henry H. Ragatz (see page 119), having served with distinction for five years as his father's successor in the secretaryship of the Rocky Mountain District, was called to headquarters to take charge of the Society's rapidly expanding program in the field of visual education. He began his new duties on July 1.

Miss S. Ruth Barrett (see page 122) was elected by the Board of Managers at its July meeting, Secretary of the Work for the Blind. Miss Barrett has for several years been the assistant in this department where she has with devoted skill become intimately acquainted with every detail of the work which has greatly expanded in recent years.

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

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Bible Lands Agency, South—Mr. H. Athanassian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt

Philippines—Rev. W. H. Fonger, 592 Isabel St., Sampoloc, Manila
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WARNING!

**Unless YOU act . . .
civilization itself
may die**

NAZI GERMANY denied Christianity. And the prison camps at Buchenwald, Maidanek, Dachau, are the result.

Japan is pagan. And the atrocities of Bilibid, Santo Tomás, Cabanatuan reflect its godlessness.

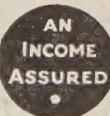
Let us be warned. Unless the spirit of Christianity is reawakened where now dormant—kindled where now unknown—these areas of world decay, like disease in the human tissue, may spread through civilization.

Reinforce your church at home! Revive and strengthen your missions abroad! Support the worldwide ministry of your American Bible Society!

Agents of the Society are everywhere ready and willing to give their strength, and if need be their lives, to widen the distribution of the Scriptures. The only limits are the funds to go ahead.

. . .

Send in your contribution today! Or do what thousands of men and women have been doing for over 100 years. Lend your support by purchasing an American Bible Society Annuity Agreement, which can be used to provide financial security for your old age. Investigate this plan, without obligation, by sending today for the interesting and valuable booklet, *A Gift That Lives*.



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